

MEETING OF THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy Dover, Delaware, on September 18, 2019 **with the following members in attendance:**

- Acting Chair, William H. Chip Narvel, Jr.
- L. Allen Messick, Jr.
- Theodore Bobola, Jr.
- Janice Truitt
- Susan Steward on behalf of Colleen Davis, State Treasurer's Office
- Peter Martin
- Raymond E. Bivens
- Robert Emerson
- Secretary Michael T. Scuse

Absent:

- Chairman Robert Garey
- William Vanderwende

The following Foundation staff members were in attendance:

- Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture
- Milton Melendez
- Howard Mesick
- Kathi Spangler
- Carrie Wanstall

Others in attendance:

- Jessica Gilbert, Young Farmer Loan Applicant
- Ingrid Parker
- David Czachorowki, Zack Excavating, Inc.
- William Czachorowki, Zack Excavating, Inc.
- Ralph Truitt, Delaware African American Farmers Association

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 AM.

I. Preservation Districts:

A. Current Situation Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board there are currently 1,420 approved and pending districts and expansions in the program encompassing 175,670 acres. There are 110 easements pending settlement for Round 23 and 9 easements pending settlement for Round 22 and 1 easement pending settlement for Round 21; once these are settled there will be 1,004 agricultural easements encompassing approximately 133,933 acres at an approximate cost of \$234,960,607. A total of 25 new applications for calendar year 2019 have been received, totaling 2,452 acres. The preserved lands for Farmland and Forestland Preservation (once Round 21, Round 22 and Round 23 easements settle) will total 1,018 easements encompassing 135,011 acres with an acquisition cost of \$236,524,645.

B. Young Farmers Report

Austin Short advised the Board that staff received one Young Farmer loan application and he will present it later during the meeting.

C. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval

1. **Bonk Farms LLC Expansion of the Morris Farms District (K-19-09-046A) *Contingent Sale*** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Ms. Janice Truitt moved to accept for expansion and final approval of Bonk Farms LLC Expansion of the Morris Farms District, seconded by Mr. Peter Martin. Motion unanimously approved.**

II. Young Farmers Loan Application:

1. **Matthew & Jessica Gilbert (Y-S-19-09-016U).** Austin reviewed the application and Jessica Gilbert discussed the plans for the farm. After discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Mr. Raymond E. Bivens moved to accept the young farmer's loan application for Matthew & Jessica Gilbert, second by Mr. L. Allen Messick, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

III. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:

Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Michael T. Scuse, waived his right of veto for the above Expansion and Young Farmer loan applications.

IV. Opportunity for Public Comments:

No public comments were received.

V. Minutes:

Chairman Narvel asked if there were any comments or changes to the August 21, 2019 meeting minutes that were mailed to Board Members prior to today's meeting. **Ms. Janice Truitt moved to approve the August 21, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. L. Allen Messick, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

VI. Financial Highlights:

The **August 31, 2019** Financial Statements were presented by Howard Mesick, who reported that Funds Held by the State were \$392,064.47 and funds in the State Interest Bearing Account were \$391,380.99 for a total of \$783,445.46. Monthly income of \$1,235.34 was comprised of interest income of \$885.34 and license plate income of \$350.00. August Ordinary Total Expenses were \$41,679.42, resulting in an August Net Income of negative \$40,444.08. Net Income for the year is \$449,268.31. **Mr. Robert Emerson motioned to accept the August 31, 2019 Financial Statements as presented, seconded by Ms. Janice Truitt. Motion unanimously approved.**

VII. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

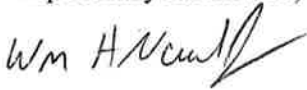
VIII. Other Business

1. **Webb Expansion of the W.G. Passwaters #2 District DelDot Culvert Replacement Project (S-06-04-193B)** Milton Melendez provided an overview of the proposed project and noted that the Foundation's attorney had not yet completed reviewing the documents. After discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Secretary Michael T. Scuse moved to accept the Webb Expansion of the W.G. Passwaters #2 District DelDot Culvert Replacement Project contingent upon review and approval by legal counsel, second by Mr. Theodore Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

IX. Adjournment

As there was no further business for the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation is **Wednesday October 16, 2019**, at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



William H. Narvel, Jr.
Acting Chairman

